American Osteopathic Association President John L. Becher, DO, Honored with National Board of Osteopathic Medical Examiners’ Santucci Award

On Friday, December 11, 2015, John W. Becher, DO, the 119th President of the American Osteopathic Association (AOA) was honored with the Santucci Award – the National Board of Osteopathic Medical Examiners’ (NBOME) highest honor.

Dr. Becher, an AOA board-certified emergency physician from Newtown Square, PA, serves as chairman of the department of emergency medicine at the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine, where he also graduated from in 1970. He is also director of osteopathic medical education at AtlantiCare Regional Medical Center in Atlantic City, New Jersey, and an adjunct professor of emergency medicine at Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia.

The NBOME is grateful for Dr. Becher’s 20-year tenure with the organization and his many noteworthy accomplishments. As Chair of the NBOME Clinical Skills Testing Advisory Committee, Dr. Becher was instrumental in developing policy and procedures for the clinical skills examination.
Dr. Becher was a pioneer in his efforts to convert the American Osteopathic Board of Emergency Medicine into a nationally administered, computer-based certifying examination. Working with the NBOME, he was able to develop and implement the new emergency medicine certification examination, and in 2009, introduced the recertifying examination in that specialty in the same format. Dr. Becher was a regular visitor to both the Chicago and Philadelphia offices for countless NBOME meetings, interviews and other assignments to assist the executive staff.

In presenting the Santucci Award to Dr. Becher, exiting NBOME Board Chair and Senior Associate Dean for Clinical Education and Associate Professor of Geriatric Medicine/Gerontology at the Ohio University Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine, Wayne R. Carlsen, DO, said, “The National Board of Osteopathic Medical Examiners is proud to continue an important tradition in the recognition of excellence.”

“The Santucci award,” Dr. Carlsen continued, “is awarded to an individual for his or her sustained outstanding contributions to the mission of the NBOME... protecting the public by providing the means to assess competencies for osteopathic medicine and related health care professions. Certainly John Becher’s contributions to the NBOME mission have been exemplary.”

The NBOME is the leading assessment organization for the osteopathic medical profession. NBOME’s COMLEX-USA examination series is a requirement for graduation from colleges of osteopathic medicine and provides the pathway to licensure for osteopathic physicians in the United States.